

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 7 March 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)
Marie Brown
Jamie Butcher
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Jill Church
Neil Gander
Ollie Graham
Christine Greveson
Dean Grindle
Robin Lofthouse
Pete Oughton
Bill Pike
Kevin Shevels
Chris Wright

Apologies for Absence: were received from Stuart Ferguson

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2005 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 2.1 Charitable Status** Bill said the Charity Commission required a slight amendment to the Constitution and it was agreed this be put to the April AGM meeting for approval
- 2.2 T Shirts** Dave offered T shirts for sale at £10 each
- 2.3 Website** Dean said the new Discussion Forum was up and running and that the website had recently been updated. Ollie said he would forward details and photos of the Phase I development to Dean.
- 2.4 Cycling For All** Bill was awaiting insurance quotes on 2 trailers that could carry 6 bikes each.
- 2.5 Parish Paths Funding** Bill and Robin had submitted a bid for £7.5K for repairing the Eggleston Moor bridleway link.
- 2.6 GMsR** Various members volunteered to help mark out the course and construct the Arena on Saturday 14 May.
- 2.7 Publicity** Ollie said he would re-email Mick with breakdown of Phase I funding for MBR and What Mountain Biking articles. Sue Berresford had prepared a briefing paper for funders. FE were looking at organising a press launch for the scheme. Barclays were visiting the site with Derek Foster on 8 April.
- 2.8 AGM Agenda** It was agreed to invite Teesdale Council and Teesdale Marketing officers together with other people who had helped with funding bids. Refreshments would be made available beforehand.

3. Statement of Accounts

Dave presented a Statement of Accounts for the end of February 2005.

4. Phase I

Progress report given by Ollie. All trails were now roughed out and some trails were complete. Features were being constructed within the Skills Area.

5. Volunteer Trailbuilding Barclays were bringing volunteers on 14 March and Ollie had organised 2 trailbuilding days for 9 and 23 April.

6. Funding £25,000 had been received from Living Spaces; £2,000 from Bill Burlton's budget – marking his retirement and £2,000 from Ann Johnson. It was agreed to write to Bill Burlton thanking him for his help and inviting him to the AGM

7. Interpretation Panels Ollie showed examples of interpretation panels for use in the Skills Area.

8. Bikesport Andy said Bikesport in Darlington could be interested in sponsoring the Grove Link trail – Andy would speak to Ollie.

9. Trail Guide Neil said he had secured funding to produce a trail guide for cycle routes within a 25 mile radius of Hamsterley and invited suggestions for routes. Neil also asked members to ride the routes and feed back comments.

10. Insurance Vicky said IMBA could offer 100 man days of volunteer trailbuilding cover for £75 per annum and it was agreed to proceed with this quote. Dave and Ollie agreed to action.

11. Local Access Forum Neil was attending future meetings of the Local Access Forum and agreed to report back. Kevin Shevels for the Fell Runners said he was also interested in attending.

12. Calendar of Events It was noted the Broompark and Newcastleton rides needed rescheduling, plus the Blanchland ride.

Andy and Marie were going to the Hope Valley in Derbyshire for the weekend of 19 March and invited anyone interested to join them.

A trip for Glentress was planned for the Easter weekend with further trips over the Spring Bank Holiday and for a week from 4 July.

On 15 June FE were holding a Bike Fun Night in the Forest with BBQ (part of Bike week.)

A weekend in the Lake District was under consideration for June or July

13. Simon Goodwin It was noted with deep regret that Simon Goodwin was leaving England to take up a job in Australia. A leaving party with an Australian theme was being held at Dave Church's house on 11 March 2005 at 7.30pm and all were welcome. Members expressed their appreciation of all the work Simon had done for Trailblazers.

13.Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 4 April 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.